CHAPTER 9

孤芳自賞

MASTER!

IN HIS CLOTHES, I FOUND A SEAL CONFIRMING THAT HE IS A SPY FROM DONGLIN!
I ALSO FOUND A FEATHER OF A PIGEON, BUT THE PIGEON WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
We caught the spy faster than I expected...
ARE THERE ANY ACCOMP-LICES?
WE HAVEN'T DISCOVERED ANY MORE!
.....
DISPOSE OF HIM AND PREPARE TO GET ON THE ROAD!

LAI ER, I'M STILL VERY WORRIED
CALM DOWN MOTHER!
WE WILL ONLY BE SEPARATING PATHS. AFTER PASSING THAT RAVINE UP AHEAD WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN!
SHAOXUAN WILL BE GOING WITH YOU. THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS!

LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!
I'M GOING TO GO FIRST!
WE'LL HAVE TO GO AS WELL!

MASTER!
WHAT?
UGH, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT WITHOUT SOUNDING AWKWARD!
OUT OF ALL THE ROYAL COUNSELORS ONLY 10 ARE FOLLOWING THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE IMPERIAL CONSULATE ISN'T THIS TOO LITTLE?
THOUGH THEY WERE ALL SOLDIERS THAT WERE ABLE TO TRAIN BECAUSE OF YOU, BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S AN AMBUSH?
UM I'M ALWAYS FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT BUT THEN I'M NOT SURE OF WHAT IT IS...
I ALSO FEEL AS IF THERE'S A PROBLEM!
WHAT?

BEHIND US ARE THE SOLDIERS OF GUI LE AND IN FRONT LIES A TRAP THAT WE DON'T KNOW OF BOTH ARE EQUALLY DANGEROUS!
SOONER OR LATER EVERYTHING WILL BE DISCOVERED BY THE ARMY OF DONGLIN!
OUR WHEREABOUTS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED!
I AM PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND HARD TO PLEASE WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING MY PARENTS!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR WORRIES CLEARLY!
ONLY... I DON'T REALLY FEEL SECURE ABOUT THAT SON OF THE MANDARIN* SHAOXUAN
SHAOXUAN?

T/N: An official in any of the nine top grades of the former imperial Chinese civil service.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE HEARD THAT!
SHAOXUAN DOESN'T JUST MEAN THAT HE'S THE ADOPTED CHILD OF FATHER'S, IT ALSO MEANS THAT HE'S A DETECTIVE OF OUR RESPECTED AN FU!
WHAT?
AH, YOU CAME TO THE PALACE AFTER THIS THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE STATUS OF THAT MAN!
IS THE SON OF THE MANDARIN SHAOXUAN NOT A CHILD OF THE ROYAL FAMILY?
THAT MAN WAS MASTER BEFORE I WAS BORN!
FATHER HAD TAUGHT HIM SWORDSMANSHIP, PLANNING AND STRATEGISING. HE IS NOW AN ELITE FOLLOWER OF FATHER'S
TRAVELLING TO EACH CONTINENT AND INVESTIGATING JUN QING IS HIS MOST IMPORTANT MISSION!

THE REASON WE'RE ABLE TO HAVE A LOT OF NEWS AND INTELLIGENCE IS ALL BECAUSE OF HIS HARD WORK.
I WOULD HAVE NEVER GUESSED!
HAHA. FATHER THINKS VERY HIGHLY OF HIM
AS DO I!
So what is this insecure feeling that I have swirling inside me?

After all, where did I go wrong?
DONG ZHUO, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO FOUND THAT SPY FROM BEFORE?
YES! EARLY THIS MORNING WHEN ROTATING DUTIES, I SAW A SUSPICIOUS PERSON IN THE FOREST SO I FOLLOWED HIM!
WHEN YOU WERE GOING FOR YOUR TURN TO KEEP WATCH?
YES!
AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO LIGHT YET SO IT WAS VERY DARK IN THE FOREST! I COULDN'T SEE THE FACE OF THE PERSON CLEARLY!
I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE A RUCKUS SO I CAUTIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIM!

This is very strange.
It's like we were lured by them!
We just changed the plan yesterday and today we caught a spy!
I ALMOST LOST SIGHT OF HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES, BUT IN THE END I WAS ABLE TO CATCH HIM BEHIND SOME BUSHES!
UNFORTUNATELY AS I CAUGHT HIM, HE BIT ON A POISONOUS SUBSTANCE THAT WAS HIDDEN IN HIS TEETH!
WE STILL HAVE NOT FOUND OUT ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM!
It's like someone deliberately made us lower our guard...

HUH? REGARDING THIS... THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE SURE SINCE THE SKY WAS TOO DARK!
DONG ZHUO, ARE YOU SURE THAT THE SUSPICIOUS PERSON AT THE START AND THE PERSON THAT YOU CAUGHT ARE ONE AND THE SAME?
MASTER?
EVERYONE TURN AROUND!
THE OTHER GROUP IS IN DANGER, QUICKLY FOLLOW ME AND TURN AROUND!

WE MUST CATCH UP WITH EVERYONE!
MASTER!
LET'S GO!

I was so negligent!
The man we caught was only a decoy! Behind that there's still another person waiting for an opportunity!
Taking advantage of my faith in Dong Zhuo, he deliberately lead him into the forest to catch the "spy" so we would lower our guard and stop investigating into the matter...
Why didn't I notice this sooner?!

Their goal from the start wasn t to directly show off in front of us!

The army
of Donglin?

GET OUT OF MY WAY!
MASTER!
QUICKLY FIRE!
FIRE!

KILL THEM FIRST!
SUPPORT MASTER!
THUD
THUD
SLASH
SUPPORT MASTER!
SLASH

TRULY I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT YOU WOULD CHASE AFTER ME THIS QUICKLY!
MASTER!

I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT YOU WERE THE SPY FOR DONGLIN!
MASTER, THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T BETRAY GUI LE, ALL THOSE NAMES ARE ONES THAT I BORROWED!

FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END, I WAS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THE EMPEROR OF GUI LE!

WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH? NOTHING!

TODAY, YOU SEEM VERY HAPPY!
YES, EXTREMELY HAPPY!
To be continued...

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